

Yaquina Watershed Newsletter

Working to improve the health of the Yaquina River and its tributaries

Fall 2011



Activities

- September 24, 2011 National Estuaries Day & SOLV Yaquina Bay Cleanup, see tides pg. 3
- September 22, 2011 Technical Team – discusses proposals and ideas for habitat restoration
- October 6, 2011 MCWC October General Public Meeting at Lincoln PUD, 6:30 p.m.
- TBA Public meeting to discuss estuaries and restoration opportunities

National Estuaries Day

“National Estuaries Day is the annual celebration of the vibrant and essential coastal areas where rivers meet the sea.”¹ Take the opportunity on September 24th to explore your estuary, participate in local clean-ups, kayak or hike the estuary. Estuaries provide food, shelter and other habitat important for young salmon, sturgeon, herring, crabs, oysters, birds and other species. Estuaries also provide clean water and nutrients to nearby land. Because of this, estuaries play a vital role in our local economy, which depends on good water quality, habitat for fisheries, and nutrients for our forests.

MidCoast Watersheds council is a Newport-based nonprofit that works to maintain productive watersheds and salmon populations, including in estuaries. Our projects support local labor and contracts that have put projects "on the ground" to help salmon migrate to and from their spawning grounds, improve water quality, and conserve and restore important river and estuary habitat.

¹<http://estuaries.gov/GetInvolved/Default.aspx?ID=153>



ADOPT-A-RIVER YAQUINA CLEANUP

SOLV & Thompson's Sanitary will host a clean up of the 11 mile stretch of highway and riverbanks along the Yaquina River and Bay. Sign in will begin at 8:30 am at Gray/Todd field above the mill in Toledo or outside England Marine in Newport. Cleanup begins at 9:00am and finishes at 11:30am.



The photos above highlight our restoration work at Cannon Quarry east of Toledo.

The Yaquina Estuary

The Yaquina Estuary is the lower part of the Yaquina River that is influenced by the tides. Much of this estuary is shaped by its industrial use. As a port facility, dredging maintains a deepwater channel for large ships at the NOAA Homeport and the International Terminal. This channel allows salt water from the ocean to flow farther up the estuary, which alters natural conditions and sometimes leads to low oxygen conditions. These

changes can lead to changes in plant and animal communities that have impacts on fisheries and water quality. In the past, the dredge spoil was used to fill in the estuary, leading habitat loss.

Still, good things are happening today. Sally's Bend is recognized as the best site for native eelgrass in the state and an important winter area for Brandt's Geese. Yaquina Bay is also one of the primary estuaries that has a large enough

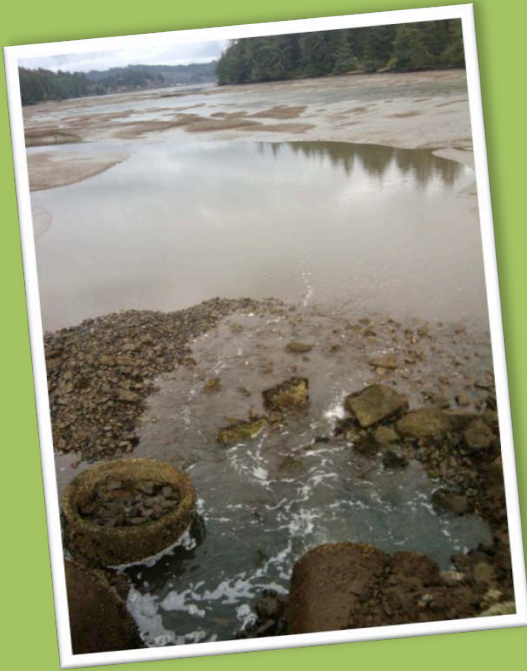
breeding population of herring to support a small commercial fishery. And McCaffery Slough and Poole Slough, both high quality marshes, are now substantially in conservation ownership.

The MidCoast Watersheds Council plays an active role in maintaining and improving estuary habitat by promoting conservation of important marsh habitats and participating in restoration.

Examples of our restoration and support of restoration in the Yaquina estuary (green = our projects, yellow = support, blue = promote)

- Protecting fringing marshes along the north shore near Boone & Nute Slough *
- Dikes breached and the natural flow re-established at a marsh owned by GP upstream of Toledo Airport *
- At Arnold Slough, upstream of Poole Slough, land in conservation ownership *
- Large restoration project to breach dikes and restore marsh at Cannon Quarry above Toledo *
- City of Toledo removed a levy and restored tidal exchange at the marsh at the end of Olalla Slough *
- Culvert replacement at 35th Street to improve fish passage into the salt marsh *
- Numerous projects in freshwater in the Yaquina Basin: current and largest is in the Upper Yaquina to improve fish passage and riparian habitats near Nashville. *





King Slough at low tide

Support the work MidCoast Watersheds Council does to restore watersheds!

The MidCoast Watersheds council is a strong organization that plays a crucial role in restoring habitat for salmon and improving water quality. Healthy salmon populations and clean water are an important part of our economy in the Pacific Northwest. Please consider donating to help continue the valuable work we are doing. You may mail a check or visit our online donation site:

<http://www.midcoastwatershedscouncil.org/donations.htm>

for more information contact Lisa Mulcahy at yaquinawatershedcouncil@gmail.com

Mid Coast Watersheds Council

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Tide Table for September 24th, HMSC Dock

Date Day High Feet High Feet Low Feet Low Feet

24 S 10:50 7.3 **10:38** 7.9 4:15 0.0 **4:33** 1.9

Bold = PM